

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

Pres. Shelby Plooster
1st V.P. Burles Johnson
2nd V.P. Tommy Rhoden
Sec. John T. Attaway
Treas. Stacey Plooster
Sgt. in Arms: Bryan Hoyt



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THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January, 2026

Our next meeting is Thursday, Jan. 15, 2025, early arrivals from 6:00 PM

Collecting the Modern Gold versions of Classic U.S. coins

Club Meeting Calendar for 2026

Jan. 15	May 15	Sep. 18
Feb. 20	June 19	Oct. 16
Mar. 20	July 17	Nov. 20
Apr. 17	Aug. 21	Dec. 18

Starting Off with a Bang!
Another Very Good Investment



A 2006 \$50.00 .9999 Fine American Gold Buffalo graded MS-69
[Enlarge the page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

In 1986, both the U.S. and West point Mints began re-striking replicas of Saint-Gaudens Double eagles. It was The U.S. Mint that first started to strike gold replicas of the popular five-cent Indian Buffalo type nickel coin originally created by Engraver James Earl Fraser within the original nickel size coins which were struck from 1913 thru 1938. The new gold coin was first produced in 2006. It was .9999 24 karat gold and was struck at both the Philadelphia Mint and the West Point facility which was located along the Hudson River in the state of New York. Both mints struck the coin in large numbers, so the coin type isn't scarce let alone rare but one hardly ever sees the early dated ones. While the denomination shown is titled only \$50, its actual value is what an ounce of Gold is currently rated \$4,500. When it was first produced in 2006, gold was valued at only \$750 an ounce so for those who acquired the coin back in 2006 they have made a small fortune based on the increased rise in gold since then.

The writer was never all that interested in the change over from the Indian head/ Buffalo nickel type to be re-coined in deep gold as shone above until very recently but looking at it and admiring it's artistic completion as a gold coin has changed his mind quite a lot and he personally admires the gold issue of this incredible coin.



A 2008 \$5.00 .999 Fine American Gold Buffalo
Graded MS-70

What brought about the writer's interest in contemporary U.S. Mint gold coinage was the tiny replica of the Indian head Buffalo nickel gold coin that he came across in September 2025 at the Augusta Coin Exchange in Martinez, GA. The tiny \$5.00 replica was created only at the West Point Mint in 2008 along with the \$10.00 and \$25.00 replicas for just that one year except the \$50 Buffalo nickel which continued to be struck on a fairly annual basis along with the Philadelphia Mint; so as a one year basis. The writer needs now just the \$10.00 and \$25.00 value gold replicas to complete his special year set. Actually the so called \$5.00, \$10.00, \$25.00 and \$50.00 values of the Buffalo gold nickel design are bogus since as gold coins their value is based on the value of an ounce of gold which as this is being written in around \$4,300 today.



A gold replica of the 1916 Mercury dime created in 2016
[Enlarge the page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

In 2016, the U.S. Mint created a triplet group of 100th anniversary gold versions of the 1916 silver Mercury dime, Standing Liberty quarter and Walking Liberty half-dollars. 125,000 were struck in gold for the Mercury dime alone which was priced at \$200 back then, but with gold valued at \$4,300 today, the same gold Mercury dime is selling for close to \$900. The coin was reduced in size from 17.9 mm (on the original silver version) to 16.5 mm. Since the mintage of six figures for the gold version is fairly large, there should be a goodly number of golden Mercury dimes available if at a much higher price.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting Gold Coins of Artistic Beauty

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



A gold replica of the 1916 Standing Liberty Quarter
[Enlarge the page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

It was Hermon A. McNeal who originally produced the Standing Liberty quarter which was first released in December 1916 with a mintage of only \$52,000, 100 years later the West Point Mint struck a beautiful gold replica reducing its original size from 24.3 mm to 22 mm and priced between \$450 and \$550 and many were acquired due to the type's popularity.



A gold replica of the 1916 Walking Liberty Half-dollar
[Enlarge the page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

The third and final silver coin of the three 1916 gold coins was Adolf Weinman's Walking Liberty silver half-dollar which was also struck by the West Point Mint in .9999 gold with a mintage of 70,000. This too was popular with collectors so the West Point Mint and is perhaps the most popular of the three due to its majestic beauty and power by the original genius of Weinman's artistic skills. It too was slightly reduced in width from 30.6 mm to 27.7 mm but still appears majestic as a coin. When the coin was first released in Nov. 17, 1916 the West Point Mint the charge was **\$865.00**. The author remembers waiting for the mail truck to deliver the three coins. Due to the recent increases in gold the price has skyrocketed for all three coins accordingly.



The three gold gems shown side by side

Acquiring other U.S. Gold Coins over the years



An 1907 Liberty head \$20.00 double Eagle graded MS-63 by NGC
[Enlarge the page to fit monitor screen to view details.]



A 1907 Saint-Gaudens \$20.00 double eagle graded MS-62 by NGC
[Enlarge the page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

While attending a FUN Show with his wife Vilma in Orlando, FL in 2008 the writer came across a dealer's table that had numerous gold coins for sale. There was a lot of jittery going on regarding the rising of gold that year as the value of gold was continually rising since 2004 from \$444.84 had to \$871.51 in 2008. The writer was aware of these increases but since gold never boomeranged downward to the 1930s he decided to acquire the two transitional dated \$20.00 double eagle types before gold could rise above what he could afford.

While moving around the bourse at the 2007 FUN Show he soon came across the two 1907 Twenty dollar double eagle shown above; the so-called Coronet Liberty Head originally designed by James Barton Longacre in 1849 but first released in 1850 which would be produced every year all the way to 1907 and the new Striding Liberty figure by Saint-Gaudens released later in year with Arabic numbers.

One doesn't have a chance to acquire such a pairing, even at a major show, so he decided to buy both coins having saved well in advance of the numismatic event and as it turned out, despite the pair cost him which cost him plenty at the time the price of gold has more than tripled since then. Years later, in July of 1921, he swapped the lighter appearing Liberty Head for a 1907-D example graded MS-64 shown directly below.



A 1907-D Coronet liberty head \$20.00 gold graded MS -64 by PCGS
(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting Gold Coins of Artistic Beauty

(Continued from page2, column 3)



**An 1807 Draped Bust \$5.00 gold half-eagle
Graded AU-55 by PCGS**

Enlarge the page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

While the writer appreciated the beauty of our U.S. gold coinage going away back to is beginnings, he originally balked at acquiring any due to their expense compared with the copper and silver coins that interested him more. He nevertheless marveled when one of the members from a coin club he belonged to both before he moved from New Jersey as well as here in Augusta, displayed their beautiful gold coinage. It wasn't until 1993 that he first acquired any U.S. gold coinage and as to early U.S. gold coinage, not until 2019 when he acquired the 1807 Draped Bust \$5.00 Half-eagle shown above.

The coin is almost uncirculated, so it displays clearly the Bust of Miss Liberty with the 13 stars surrounding her along with the word, LIBERTY circling her on the upper right of the obverse. On the reverse, upon enlarging the screen to 150%, the reader can better see the crowded items more clearly with the Heraldic Eagle displaying a shield in her center, across her upper feathers with the motto, E PLURIBUS UNUM across its neck and the 13 stars above with a series of clouds still further above. Circulating all from the lower left to the lower right is the legend, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The coin type by Robert Scot was struck from 1807 thru 1812 before Asst. Engraver, John Reich was asked to replace Scot's design types with his.



**An 1807 Capped bust \$5.00 gold half-eagle
Graded AU-58 by NGC**

Transitional dates occur when two different design types of the same denomination are struck in the same year, and that is exactly what happened a while later in 1807 when John Reich was asked to create new design types for all our denominations. While the obverse side of Reich's type is somewhat similar to Robert Scot's approach except that Miss Liberty is now facing left instead of right with a cap over her head, the reverse is a lot different as well as simpler in design with the legend; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA appearing less crowded and evenly written with 5D. (for 5 dollars) written directly below the simpler designed eagle on the reverse. The AU-58 grade is slightly higher creating a sense that the coin is almost uncirculated. Nevertheless, the writer thinks both design types are highly artistic and a pleasure to observe.

Both coins were close in price and somewhat expensive but the author had saved up sufficient cash in order to acquire both coins back in early 2019.

Moving a long with early U.S. gold coinage



A Classic Head 1836 \$2.50 quarter eagle graded AU-50 by PCGS
Enlarge the page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

Away back in September, 1993 the author attended a major coin show in northern New Jersey near where the NY Giants and Jets play their football games there was a major coin show was held and he found exactly what he was looking for; the 1836 \$2.50 quarter eagle and the \$5.00 half-eagle. In 1836, there were two varieties regarding the 8 in the date, the Block 8 and the Script 8. The example above is the Block 8. It had a reported mintage of 547,986 which is fairly common. The coin cost the writer \$810 but that was back in 1993. Today PCGS COINFACTS lists the price \$1,650.



A Classic Head 1836 \$5.00 half-eagle graded XF-45 by PCGS
Enlarge the page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

At another table, the author came across the \$5.00 gold Classic head half-eagle shown directly above. It was graded XF-45 by PCGS, slightly less than the quarter-Eagle but in the photo the coin looks just as nice. According to PCGS COINFACTS, the coin had a reported mintage of 553,147. Neither of the two gold Classic Head type coins shown in this column are considered scarce since they represented the most common dates of the short run series that was struck from 1834 thru 1838. The author didn't care because he was interested in acquiring the coin types that he could afford; not necessarily coin rarities which he couldn't but with the continuous rise in gold over the many years he has had the \$5.00 gold piece, its gold value has risen to more than \$1,500.

Both coins shown directly above were created by our second official chief engraver, William Kneass.



An 1850 \$1.00 gold graded MS-62 by NGC
Enlarge the page to fit monitor screen to view details.]

As a result of the discovery of gold in California the Mint created a tiny gold piece just 13mm in diameter that was worth \$1.00. The engraver was James B. Longacre. This little gem was struck at the Philadelphia, New Orleans, Charlotte and Dahlonega Mints but only the Philadelphia mint issue is common today. This lovely tiny coin which only a decade ago was selling for \$400 at the FUN Show is now retailing for \$650 today. Gold coins are beautiful!

**AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC.
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 18, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Grill by President, Shelby Plooster. We had 42 members present and 2 guests present.

The Secretary's Report:

The November 20, 2025 minutes were not read. A copy is kept on file.

The Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was sent by email from Stacey Plooster. We have \$20,541.80 deposited in the checking account.

The Prize Winners:

The winner of the 50/50 raffle for \$65.00 was Everitt Price. Esther Macias and Rick Raffone each won a 1 oz. Silver Eagle.

Our Fall Coin Show Nov 21 (Friday) and Nov 22nd (Saturday) 2025, Steve Nix - Bourse Chairman.

The Fall Coin Show was held at the Columbia County Exhibition Center located at the Grovetown Walmart at exit 190. The dealers could set up Thursday night from 4pm to 8pm.. Mr. Sammy Lucky provided our postcards that were mailed. Thank you, Mr. Lucky.

Steve Nix reported the show was a huge success.

Show and Tells:

Show and Tell for December for our coin club will be added to the January minutes.

Our Vice President, Burles Johnson put on a fantastic dinner for our coin club. Thank Burles, for the baked chicken and all the trimmings.

Old Business:

Perfect attendance has been suspended. Books from Leaphart Coins will be available for a cost of \$12.

Program givers will be awarded two Silver Eagles instead of a 1/10 oz. gold coin. Members, please pay your dues. This was the outcome of our Board of Directors Meeting on February 18, 2025.

Rent to use the Sunrise Grill was raised from 50 dollars a meeting to 200 dollars a meeting. Shelby stated you must be a paid member to win a door prize.

New Business:

Our Club's Annual Election

A vote for Board of Directors was held and David Chism, Arno Safran and Mike Brill were elected for the 2026 year. Since there were no challenges or new candidates for our 2026 fiscal year club Secretary John Attaway casted one ballot for the other current officers of the club.

Dues for 2026 will be \$20; juniors are free. Arno Safran won the drawing for putting on programs for our monthly meetings. The prize was a \$200 dollar gift certificate donated by Steve Damron.

Recent Coin Shows:

Atlanta Monthly Show

January 18, 2025

Marietta, Ga (new location)

Fun Show

January 8- 11, 2026

Orlando, Fl

ANA Money Show

February 26-28, 2026

Savannah, Ga

Our Club's Monthly Coin Auction:

Burles Johnson ran the auction (11lots). Tommy Rhoden served as Bids Recorder, Everette Price and Shelby Plooster delivered the goods speeding up the process.

*Respectively Submitted,
John Thomas Attaway*

Gone With the Wind



A 1937 Proof set

Away back in March, 2002 this collector headed down to Jacksonville, FL to attend a major Coin Show and while he was there he came across a lovely 1937 Mint set that he had always wanted to acquire. Beginning in the 21st Century, aspects of the former 20th still appeared in numismatics when it came to protecting coins in various holders but these were nowhere like the large see-through plastic holders that holds a single coin today. The older holders had varieties starting from a single hole to plenty. The proof set holders usually had five holes in them which would hold the cent thru half-dollar since the large size silver dollars stopped being made in 1979 when the Eisenhower dollar was replaced by the smaller Susan B. Anthony one.

Around 2013, there were rumors that the value of the 1936 thru 1942 Proof sets were going to drop in value, so the writer sold a bunch of them at a profit while attending a Georgia Numismatic Association show in Dalton, GA. He did well but now when he sees the photos he made of the scarcer ones like the 1937 above, since the newer ones have to be singularly replaced, he mourns for the good ole days.

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